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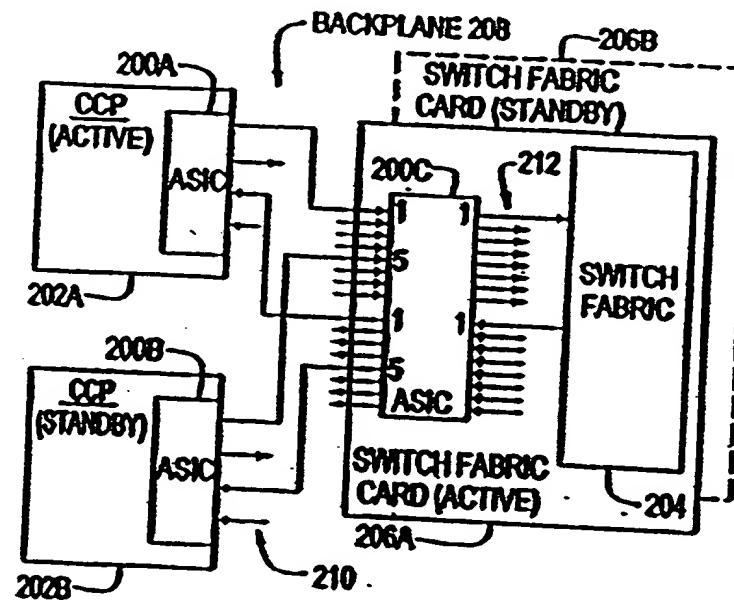
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## Title: CELL COMBINATION TO UTILIZE AVAILABLE SWITCH BANDWIDTH

## Abstract

An apparatus and method for combining multiple streams of data cells into a thread. By enabling plural ports of an intermediate device to access a single parallel output of the device, plural network elements share a single through a switch fabric. For example, the method and apparatus interleaving the relatively low bandwidth cell outputs of two ATM switch central control processors (202A, 202B) onto a single (212) routed through an integrated switch fabric (204). Or, these cells are received from the fabric at a parallel input of intermediate device, then routed to the plural serial output ports. The method prevents exceeding the thread bandwidth.



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